

**In memory of Dini Thomsen 11.10.1943. - 28.05.2021**

Jan Kellendonk



Picture taken on August 27, 2017,  
Bedburg-Hau



May 4, 2018. In her studio, Huisberden, Bedburg-Hau

As the year 2019 drew to a close, I met the Dutch artist Dini Thomsen, who was in a thoughtful mood. She started her career as a painter but expressed her thoughts later in life in installations that often had large proportions. Most of them required a lot of physical effort. At the age of 76 she felt tired and not quite up to the task anymore. 5 years ago, I took the following picture after an hour of listening..



### **Portrait of the artist as an elderly woman**

She sat there in receding light  
the last days of the year  
And talked about her life and work  
as if her end were near  
So much to do, so much to show  
but lacking is the strength  
When being honest with oneself  
one needs a caring ear



As an example of a work of the late Dini Thomsen I like to introduce you to her installation “Behausungen” (“dwellings”), a concept that includes poor and makeshift accommodations, but also villas. In this case the former meaning is relevant. 13 dwellings on stilts, placed randomly on a meadow in the Dominikaner Bongert in Kalkar. The site is bordered by a wall separating it from an old Jewish cemetery. The pictures with the sheep were taken at the end of August 2018, at the request of the artist.

She asked me to re-visit the site after it snowed in January the following year. Snow on a dull day made it feel different, unlike August. She seemed content with the pictures. But overnight, a heavy snowfall made our rural environment a true winter wonderland. She called me and asked if I would again make photos. I would; like her, I was curious to see the change.



Kalkar, Dominikaner Bongert (orchard, formerly managed by the Dominicans).

August 28, 2018







↑ January 22, 2019 ↓ January 23

